

FAMILY PRAYERS FOR A FORTNIGHT

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649354085

Family prayers for a fortnight by H. N. Champney

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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

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H. N. CHAMPNEY

**FAMILY PRAYERS
FOR A FORTNIGHT**

FAMILY PRAYERS

FOR A FORTNIGHT,

WITH OCCASIONAL ADDITIONS,

A Selection of appropriate Passages of Scripture,

AND AN INDEX OF SUBJECTS,

BY

H. N. CHAMPNEY,

Author of a Textual Commentary on the Book of Psalms, &c., &c.

LONDON:

WERTHEIM AND MACINTOSH,

25, PATERNOSTER ROW.

1867.

138. d. 13.

HISTORICAL



PREFACE.

NO APOLOGY seems needed for the addition of another set of Family Prayers, at a moderate price, to the many valuable and popular ones already in circulation. Variety is desirable, and even necessary, in domestic worship, to prevent formality, and numerous are the tastes and the circumstances which have to be suited and provided for.

There are however some peculiarities in the following pages, which give them a distinctive character, and which will compensate in some measure, it is hoped, for the blemishes and defects they cannot fail to exhibit.

It is a singular fact that very few books of Family Devotion contain petitions on behalf of the *children* of the family. Of nearly twenty which the Author possesses, that of the late Mr. Thornton is the only exception; and even *his* italic paragraphs on this subject are less applicable to the very young than to those who are of an age to pray for themselves. Suitable prayers and thanksgivings on behalf of the little ones whom Jesus welcomed and blessed will be found in nearly all the forms in this manual.

The Author has long felt also that the chief deficiency in Forms of Family Prayer is the absence of any direct reference to the passage of Scripture previously read, which seems to have a peculiar claim to be made the subject of subsequent prayer.

The recent publication of the Rev. Daniel Moore's "Daily Devotion" enables the reader of the New Testament to introduce appropriate Petitions upon its successive portions into the Forms he has in ordinary use. All that the Author could accomplish in the present work has been to include in each Prayer a special supplication for the divine blessing upon the passage read, which will be more or less applicable according to the subject of the passage itself, and which may, if desired, be more closely adapted to it by a little alteration at the time. It may be followed by a written or extemporaneous addition, embodying some of the more obvious topics of prayer and praise which the portion of Scripture presents, and thus may ultimately lead to that independence of the use of forms which all conductors of Family Worship should endeavour to attain.

The inconvenience of turning over leaves during prayer is avoided in this volume, by having the prayers so printed and arranged, as to be each of them complete at one opening of the book. This method will also facilitate and encourage the use of the Occasional Prayers, when required.

The Forms are short, being of the same average length as those of the Rev. B. Richings, in his popular volume, "The Tent and the Altar." (Seeley, 1s.)

Those for the Morning usually contain more of supplication on spiritual subjects, and those for the Evening a larger proportion of intercessory matter. The whole are made applicable, as far as the Author was able, to all classes of worshippers.

Among the Occasional Prayers will be found a few Forms upon subjects not usually provided for in small Manuals of this kind, to the exclusion of others more generally met with.

The beautiful Collects of the Church are suitable and valuable additions to Family Prayers, at the various commemorative Seasons, and indeed throughout the year.

References are made at the head of each Prayer to a few Chapters or Paragraphs of Holy Scripture, more or less suitable to be occasionally read in connection with it.

An Index of subjects is added, to assist in the choice of a Prayer, or portion of one, suited to a particular sermon, or for any other purpose.

Appropriate Texts, for Sunday and other occasions, designed for repetition by those assembled for Family Worship, where that practice is observed, will be found in another Publication of the Author, referred to at the end of the Volume.

While thus endeavouring to contribute some subordinate aid in the conduct of Family Worship, the Author desires to keep alive in his own mind, and in the minds of those whom he now addresses, a deep sense of its privilege and importance, and of the need of seeking the help and presence of the Holy Spirit in preparing for and conducting it. It is an engagement upon which we should enter, not hurriedly and carelessly, but in seriousness and in faith, as a means of spiritual edification and comfort; it may be even (as experience has testified) of awakening and conversion, and as a season in which we are seeking to draw near to God, and to have Him draw near unto us. The table, the room, the mind, and the heart, should all alike be prepared, and though the time for the exercise may be sometimes necessarily abridged, there should be no appearance of haste to conclude.

The engagement should not be allowed to be wearisome to any, but be made interesting to all. The Conductor of it should previously read over the Portion of Scripture, the Commentary and the Prayer, to himself, and afterwards endeavour, if possible, by a remark of his own, by an interjectional supplication bearing upon

some event of the day, or by any other means in his power, to give variety and life to the service.

The Commentaries upon the entire Scriptures which the Author has found most suited for Family use, are the three published by the Religious Tract Society; *viz.* the Commentary in 6 vols, large 12mo., (some of the sections of which require subdivision or abridgment in use.) Price, 32s. (To Subscribers, 24s.) The Short Comments, 8vo. 10s. (7s. 6d.) and the Pocket Commentary, 3 vols. 18mo. 4s.

The writer begs to refer to Bickersteth's Family Prayers (Seeley, 4s. 6d.) for suggestions on the subject of Family Worship, of much higher authority and value than any which he can himself expect to be able to offer.

It may not be out of place to mention here that "The Child's Book of Prayers," edited by the late Rev. E. Bickersteth, (Seeley, 1s.) and the "Prayers for Little Children," by the Rev. Canon Champneys, (Wertheim, 2d.) contain many really simple Prayers for the use of young children.

Bickersteth's Cottage Prayers, (Seeley, 6d.; and Nisbet, 1d. Watton Tracts;) and Mylne's Family Prayers, (Wertheim, 3d.) are suitable to give to the Poor.

May the blessing of God rest upon this and upon every other endeavour, unworthy though it be, to honour his name, and to be of service to his people and his cause.

YORK, JAN. 17th, 1857.

SELECT PSALMS,

FOR OCCASIONAL USE.

i.—ii.—iv.—v.—viii.—xi.—xv.—xvi.—xix.—xxiii.—xxiv.—xxv.—xxvi.—xxvii.—xxviii.—xxxii.—xxxiii.—xxxiv.—xxxvi.—xxxviii.—xxxix.—xl.—xli.—xlix.—li.—lxii.—lxiii.—lxvii.—lxxiii.—lxxxiv.—lxxxv.—lxxxvi.—xc.—xci.—xcv.—xcvi.—xcvii.—c.—ci.—ciii.—cvii.—cxi.—cxii.—cxix.—cxxi.—cxxx.—cxxxv.—cxxxviii.—cxxxix.—cxlii.—cxliii.—cxlv.—cxlvi.—cxlix.

PRAYER BEFORE READING.

BLESS, O God, the reading of thy Holy Word, by the teaching of the Spirit, to our edification and comfort, and to thy glory, for Jesus Christ's sake.

SUNDAY MORNING.

Mat. xxviii. ; Rev. i. 9--18 ; Pa. lxxxiv. ; xcv. ; c. ; cxviii. 19--29.

O BLESSED SAVIOUR, LORD OF THE SABBATH, we hail with thankfulness and joy the return of thine own day. Let us feel that the atmosphere of heaven is around us, breathing holiness and peace, and drawing from our hearts the melody of praise. Make us sensible that thou art come nearer to our souls, and art ready to impart to us a gracious earnest of our everlasting rest.

We humbly thank thee, O Father, for the removal of all temporal hindrances to our enjoyment of this day, and for the means of grace with which we are favoured.

Pardon our imperfect preparation for thy blessed Sabbath, and the earthliness which pervades and encumbers our spirits. Lord, strengthen our weakness, and animate our deadness, that thy service may not be a weariness to us.

Awaken us to a new and heavenly life, and grant that we may be "in the Spirit" on thine own day. Let the remembrance of our blessed Saviour's rising from the grave and the anticipation of our own resurrection, in the brightness of his second coming, inspire us with holy gratitude and praise.

Humble us, at the same time, O Lord, with the recollection of our past imperfect and sinful use of thy blessed Sabbaths, and with a deep sense of our unworthiness of another of these precious gifts. Make us to feel our responsibility for a profitable use of the privileges we are now about to enjoy.

Vouchsafe unto us in the services of thine house, and in all our waiting upon thee this day, a comfortable sense of *thy presence*, grant us a real communion of saints, a

happy fellowship of spirit with thy people who worship with us; with those dear to us but separated from us on earth who are meeting before thy throne of grace; and with those blessed ones now taken from us who are singing their eternal song of praise.

Let thy Word preached to us this day, be quickening, edifying, and comforting, according to our several needs. Give thy blessing to thy ministers who preach, and to us and to all who hear.

Be with those of us who are called to the instruction of the young:—open our mouths to speak, and their hearts to receive, the saving truths of thy Word.

Be with those who are preaching in distant lands the glad tidings of salvation to the Heathen and the Jew.

Preserve the sacredness of thy holy day in every portion of our native land. Let not its precious hours seem too long to be taken wholly from the world, and given wholly to thee.

Grant that the little ones whom thou lovest may be partakers in the blessings of the day; and enable them to find it, and us to make it to them, a holy and a happy day.

Let a special measure of Sabbath blessing and a sweeter anticipation of Heavenly rest be afforded to all those whom thou hast been pleased to lay upon beds of pain and sickness.

Roll away the darkness of a world lying in wickedness, and let the Sun of righteousness arise, with healing in his wings.

Hear and answer our prayer for Jesus Christ's sake.

Now unto Him that is able to keep us from falling, and to present us faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, to the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.